

Pain assessment clinical competencies

Name:	Role:
Base:	Date initial training completed:

Competency Statement:

The participant demonstrates clinical knowledge and skill in the recognition and assessment of pain without assistance and/or direct supervision (level 3 - see level descriptors). Assessment in practice must be by a Registered Health Care Professional who can demonstrate competence at level 4 or above.

Performance Criteria	Assessment Method	Level achieved	Date	Assessor/self assessed
The Participant will be able to:				
1. Demonstrate the ability to recognise and assess pain				
a) Recognise the possibility of pain in older people and be aware of their reluctance to acknowledge or report pain	Questioning			
b) Enquire about pain (using a range of descriptors e.g. sore, hurting, aching) when completing a patient health assessment	Questioning / observation			
c) Assess the pain from a multidimensional perspective including: i) sensory dimension – nature, location and intensity of pain ii) affective dimension – emotional component and response to pain iii) impact – on functioning at the level of activities and participation	Questioning / observation			
d) Identify the location of the pain by: i) asking the patient to point to the area themselves ii) use pain maps to define location and extent	Questioning / observation			
e) Use a standardised intensity rating scale, preferably a simple verbal rating scale or numeric rating scale if the patient is able to use these	Questioning / observation			
f) Make every effort to facilitate communication particularly with those people who are sensory impaired. Use appropriate self reporting assessment scales to suit the strength of the individual	Questioning / observation			
g) Offer people with moderate to severe communication problems additional assistance. Use an observational assessment of pain behaviour in people with severe impairment, and in situations which may cause pain Include insights from family or carers to interpret the meaning of their behaviours	Questioning / observation			

Performance Criteria	Assessment Method	Level achieved	Date	Assessor/self assessed
h) Include a careful physical examination to identify any treatable causes	Questioning / observation			
i) Re-evaluate pain using the same pain assessment tool to evaluate the effects of treatment	Questioning / observation			

Source: The assessment of pain in older people: national guidelines 2007 RCGP, BGS and BPS

Date all elements of Competency Tool completed to level 3 _____

Name _____ Signature _____ Status _____ Date _____

I confirm that I have assessed the above named individual and can verify that he/she demonstrates competency in pain assessment

Assessor _____ Signature _____ Status _____ Date _____

Review Dates:	Competent Yes / No	Health Care Professional / Assessor Signature	Verifier signature	Comments